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Letter dated 3 July 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform presented at the open meeting held in New York on 17 June 2014 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Igor **Vencel**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 3 July 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Open meeting of the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform: implementation of Security Council resolution 2151 (2014) — Security sector reform and the maintenance of international peace and security

Draft statement of the Co-Chairs

The Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform gathered on 17 June 2014 for a meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meeting was co-chaired by the Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations, Frantisek Ružička, and the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, Jeremiah Nyamane Kingsley Mamabolo (represented by Mlungisi Cedrick Mbalati).

Speakers at the event included the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations, U. Joy Ogwu; the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations, Karel J. G. van Oosterom; the Assistant Secretary-General for the Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Dmitry Titov; the Deputy Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme, Stan Nkwain; and the focal point on security sector reform within the Economic Community of West African States, Isaac Armstrong. Security sector reform chiefs and advisers from United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions also participated in the meeting.

The Secretary-General's call in his second report on security sector reform for the Group to "continue to be engaged and to facilitate strategic discussions on strengthening the United Nations approach in this critical area" (A/67/970-S/2013/480, para. 61 (m)) was recognized. Members of the Group reiterated their commitment to the development of a comprehensive and holistic United Nations approach to security sector reform.

Attention was drawn to and support was expressed for the following positions recently set out in Security Council resolution 2151 (2014):

First, security sector reform is "a key element of peacekeeping and special political mission mandates". An effective and accountable security sector is "the cornerstone of peace and sustainable development".

Second, security sector reform "should be a nationally owned process that is rooted in the particular needs and conditions of the country in question", and it is important to consider "the perspectives of the host countries in the formulation of relevant mandates".

Third, "security sector reform constitutes a key element of the political processes of States recovering from conflict and of the strengthening of the rule of law institutions".

Fourth, in addition to reform of the individual components of the security sector, it is important to strengthen "support for sector-wide initiatives that aim to

enhance the governance and overall performance of the security sector and address the foundations upon which security institutions in each component area are built".

Fifth, the Secretary-General should "encourage the Secretary-General's Special Representatives and Envoys to fully take into account the strategic value of security sector reform in their work, including through their good offices".

During the meeting, the members of the Group also voiced their support for calls to strengthen United Nations capacity to support national security sector reform efforts, both in the field and at United Nations Headquarters, as outlined in Security Council resolution 2151 (2014), reports of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping (A/64/19, A/65/19, A/68/19) and the second report of the Secretary-General on security sector reform (A/67/970-S/2013/480).

In accordance with resolution 2151 (2014), members of the Group of Friends reiterated the need to:

- Make it a priority to "assist relevant senior United Nations management to understand how to deliver mandated security sector reform tasks", while also including all staff involved in supporting national security sector reform efforts
- "Encourage the Secretary-General's Special Representatives and Envoys to fully take into account the strategic value of security sector reform in their work, including through their good offices, where mandated", and identify metrics within their compacts to hold them accountable in this respect
- Urge "integration as regards sector-wide and component levels of UN support both at headquarters and in the field": and in this respect, reiterate to Special Representatives of the Secretary-General the potential for integrating SSR components in the field, specifically by ensuring the development of integrated security sector analyses, security sector support plans (including training, equipment and governance-related dimensions) and mission-wide assessments
- Strengthen "support for sector-wide initiatives that aim to enhance the governance and overall performance of the security sector and address the foundations upon which security institutions in each component area are built"
- Enhance as part of overall security sector reform the delivery of peacekeeping operations in the areas of national security sector governance, police sector reform, defence sector reform and border management and security reform, as well as enhance support to the reform of police services and defence forces, and expand assistance to institutions responsible for their oversight and management
- "Work closely with regional and subregional organizations to support the development of security sector reform frameworks" and deepen and expand thematic and regional partnerships, particularly in new practice areas, such as "security sector public financial management" (see A/67/970-S/2013/480, para. 61 (l) and (h))
- "Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of United Nations security sector reform initiatives", particularly in the contexts of mission transition and reporting on Security Council benchmarks

- "Provide financial and technical resources to enable the deployment of expertise" (see A/67/970-S/2013/480, para. 61 (n)) from the United Nations roster of security sector reform experts, thereby enhancing the Organization's capacity to rapidly deploy security sector reform expertise
- Enhance the capacities of the Inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force and the Security Sector Reform Unit in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to enable them to meet their operational mandate, particularly with respect to enhanced delivery of field support, and to play their mandated role in promoting an effective, coherent and well-coordinated approach in this crucial area (see A/67/970-S/2013/480, para. 61 (o)).

The way forward

The Security Council's call for Member States to "provide voluntary support to security sector reform efforts, including at a sector-wide level, in accordance with the priorities set forth by national authorities" (resolution 2151 (2014)) was reiterated. It was noted that despite the remarkable progress, key security sector reform mechanisms — particularly the Inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force and the Security Sector Reform Unit — do not have a direct resource allocation and have an inadequate resource allocation, respectively. Therefore, it is crucial to make efforts to better explore the use of existing resources as well as the allocation of additional resources, such as assessed budgets.

(*Signed*) Frantisek **Ružička**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic

(*Signed*) Kingsley **Mamabolo**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the
Republic of South Africa